

REMARKS

Claims 8, 10 and 14 have been amended, and claims 8-17 are pending. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The Office Action states that "applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b)." However, as this is a 371 national stage application, no certified priority document is required, as the international bureau forwards such document. Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for priority.

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner, in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, refers to CFR 1.83(a) stating that the drawings "must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims." However, 35 U.S.C. 113 is controlling. The section of the code states, in part, that "[t]he applicant shall furnish a drawing **where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented.**" There is no requirement that every feature of the claims be illustrated in the drawings. Only drawings necessary for understanding the subject matter sought to be patented is required. In this case, the drawings in the application provide sufficient disclosure for understanding the subject matter. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

Claims 8-10 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Rom in view of Ng; Claims 11 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Rom in view of Ng, further in view of Wang; Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Rom in view of Ng, further in view of Raphaelli; and Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as

unpatentable over Rom in view of Ng and Wang, further in view of Raphaëli. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that the "internal registers" (410) and the "counter registers" (510) of the claimed invention are different devices, referring to disclosure in the drawings as detailing separate devices. In this regard, the Examiner also notes that the claim limitations do not require such a distinction, stating that "the claim limitations never distinguishes these registers are separate entities. The claim requires the existence of such registers and distinguishes them only by their functionality, not their physicality." (See, paragraph 1, on page 3 of the Office Action). In either event, the Examiner cites to the counters 1-N of Fig. 3 in Rom as equivalents to both of the internal and counter registers of the instant invention. Claims 8, 10 and 14 have been amended to clarify that the internal registers and the counter registers are indeed separate devices having different tasks. That is, the internal registers are registers in which users can enter a certain threshold value, as required by the claimed invention (as amended).

Rom, on the other hand, fails to disclose that values can be entered by a user in the specific registers. The registers 1-N of Rom does not show an input device that is capable of receiving and storing user values. Rather, they are merely automatic counter registers being incremented or decremented depending on the data packets received or sent. Therefore, we respectfully submit that the limitation "registering, as a user value, traffic volume for each of said plurality of ports in an internal register, said traffic volume being entered by a user through a data input unit as a user value" is not disclosed by Rom.

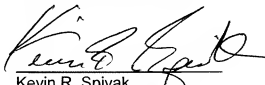
Since the recited structure and method are not disclosed in the applied prior art, either alone or in combination, claims 8, 10 and 14 are patentable. Claims 9, 11-13 and 15-17 are similarly patentable as they depend from allowable claims.

Entry of this amendment after-final is appropriate since the claims have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added which would require an additional search by the Examiner.

Applicants therefore submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An indication of same is solicited. In the event any further matters requiring attention are noted by Examiner, or in the event that prosecution of this application can otherwise be advanced thereby, a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned representative at the number shown below is invited.

Further, Applicants hereby petition for the Commissioner to charge any additional fees or any underpayment of fees which may be required for this Amendment and which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case at any time during prosecution, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 04-1061, referencing Attorney Docket No. 39090-77.

Respectfully submitted,


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